

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN POSITION ON RUBBER STABILIZATION AGREEMENT

REF: JAKARTA 15560

1. GOI DELEGATION ATTENDED RECENT MEETING OF ASSOCIATION OF NATURAL RUBBER PRODUCING COUNTRIES (ANRPC) IN JAKARTA, BUT WAS NOT A PARTY TO THE RUBBER STABILIZATION AGREEMENT ADOPTED BY MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, THAILAND, SRI LANKA AND SINGAPORE (SEE REFTEL). AS FIFTH LEADING NATURAL RUBBER (NR) PRODUCER AND MEMBER OF ANRPC, INDIA COULD HAVE PARTICIPATED IN AGREEMENT, BUT INSTEAD ELECTED TO REMAIN THE LARGEST NR PRODUCER OUTSIDE OF NEW AGREEMENT.

2. REQUEST EMBASSY EVALUATION OF GOI POSITION ON ANRPC STABILIZATION AGREEMENT. WHY DID INDIA CHOOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE AT THIS TIME? MIGHT IT CONTEMPLATE ENTERING AT A LATER DATE? WHAT POSITION CAN WE EXPECT GOI TO TAKE

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AT THE JANUARY UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS ON RUBBER, WHERE

THE ANRPC AGREEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE TABLED?

3. INDIAN NR PRODUCTION WAS 136,000 METRIC TONS IN 1975, ALMOST TRIPLING ITS 1965 OUTPUT. IN THIS PERIOD, INDIA CEASED TO BE A NET NR IMPORTER AND ENTERED THE EXPORT MARKET IN 1973. ALTHOUGH INDIA'S EXPORTS ARE STILL NEGLIGIBLE (4,000 TONS IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1976), INDIA APPEARS TO BE HEADED FOR A LARGER PRESENCE IN THE WORLD MARKET. THIS TREND COULD HELP EXPLAIN GOI RELUCTANCE TO JOIN ANRPC STABILIZATION AGREEMENT, WHICH INCLUDES EXPORT QUOTAS. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF INDIAN NR PRODUCTION, INCLUDING PLANS TO EXPAND NR CAPACITY AND IMPROVE PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, AND PROJECTED PRODUCTION/EXPORTS TO 1980. INDIA ALSO HAS SMALL SYNTHETIC RUBBER CAPACITY, BUT NR SECTOR HAS BEEN MORE DYNAMIC IN RECENT YEARS.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY REPLY BY JANUARY 5. KISSINGER

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